answering Question 173, dated 17th December 1931, regarding sea-erosion in Cranganur?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The Diwan told the deputation that necessary steps would be taken to try the device of floating timbers to check sea-erosion.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I know, Sir, whether they intend to keep this promise mentioned here?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Whenever the Government give a promise they try to keep it.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—That necessary steps would be taken to try the device of floating timber, I think, the Hon'ble Member has already given a kind promise. I am asking whether this particular method of preventing erosion will be looked into and whether this promise will be kept up.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes. The remedy suggested will be considered.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Was this remedy ever tried anywhere in Cochin?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It was not tried anywhere in India.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Anywhere outside?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It was tried in some English coasts.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Will the Government seriously take up the question and try it in Cochin?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes.

Mr. M. A. Chakko.—Was it not the practice here to float cocoanut stems?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I don't remember.

Poor Houses—opening of.

63. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—With reference to Question 64, dated 1st August 1933, regarding the opening of Poor House, will the Government kindly give a full account of the number of inmates in the House and the provisions made there for their benefit and state by what time they hope to open Poor Houses in all our other important towns and cities?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—There have been 75 admissions to the Poor House since its opening. Of these, 52 have been discharged and 19 died. On the last day of 1109 there were 4 inmates. The inmates are given *kanji* in the morning and meals at noon and in the evening. Invalids among them

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are given the diet prescribed by the doctor who visits the institution. The inmates are also supplied with clothing and oil for baths.

Government have no proposal in hand to open Poor Houses in other towns.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I know, Sir, under what circumstances were these poor inmates discharged? Was it that they were provided somewhere outside?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The rules only state that the committee alone can authorise the discharge of any inmate against his will. Therefore, probably those people of their own will must have left the institution.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—So the Government have not got definite information?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—No.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—With reference to the second paragraph may I know whether they would consider the proposal of starting poor houses in important towns like Mattancheri and Trichur?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I think it is desirable to have poor houses in all the important places.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I know whether the Government would be pleased to make a beginning in the line in the near future?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The Government would note this suggestion and take further steps and see what can be done.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—What is the idea of the Government with regard to the Poor House. Is it intended to be a permanent residence for the destitute or for people to reside temporarily there?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I will read rule (1) of the rules for the management of this Poor House.

"The Poor House is intended primarily for the homeless and destitute people who by reason of age or disease are unable to work and have no place in the hospital or asylum made by Government."

Dr. A. R. Menon.—If that is so how was it that these 52 were discharged?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Perhaps they left it of their own free-will.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Is it because the institution is managed so nicely that these people left it? It is not a question of leaving of their own will unless they are compelled.

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Rama Varmha Tampuran.—There is a provision that those who can do light work should be encouraged to work in the Gardens. I don't know whether anybody resented against this provision. I don't exactly know under what circumstances these people were discharged. There is a definite statement in the rules that the Committee alone can authorise the discharge of an inmate against his will. Therefore, if a person did not want to go out it would be very difficult to send him out unless the entire committee consents to it. Therefore, there won't be any violation of the rules or any hardship caused.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Who is managing this institution?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—A committee.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—A committee consisting of whom?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—A committee consisting of the Chairman of the Municipal Council, the Chief Medical Officer and two other nominated members.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Then, perhaps the Chief Medical Officer would be able to give us some explanation.

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—Sir, I have to describe the thing before the House can appreciate it. Ever since the starting of the Poor House these people were not willing to go there. We cannot compel anybody to go to that place. It is of their free will that they go there. They go there and stay there when they are ill. As soon as they get a little better they prefer to go and beg.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—If they are really ill is it not proper to keep them in the Hospital ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—There are a set of people who are chronically ill, for instance a man suffering from elephantiasis, whom we cannot keep for any indefinite time in the Hospital. As a matter of fact, we all know that every poor man who walks about the street has some illness. When he cannot beg he goes there. The moment he is fit to beg he goes out. Unless there is a law compelling them to go to such places and preventing begging I am afraid the system of Poor House is bound to be a failure.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—What is the contribution given by the Government for maintaining this Poor House ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It comes to a little over Rs. 3,000 and the Municipality contributes some amount.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Then it is not due to want of funds ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—No.

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Mr. George Chakyamuri.—May I know the particular individuals who are in charge of the place to look after the people ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—It is managed by a member of the Ramakrishna Mission.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Is he a paid man?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—He is paid a subsisting allowance of Rs. 25.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—May I know whether it is not excessive to pay Rs. 25 when compared with the number of inmates. There are only four.

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—It is not his fault that there are only four. He is prepared to look after even twenty.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Have the Government ascertained whether there are non-official bodies who are willing to manage the thing without any remuneration whatsoever ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—I am not in a position to say.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—May I know whether any provision is made for the disposal of the dead bodies according to their religious rites or how the dead bodies were disposed ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—They were sent to the general cremation ground and buried.

Mr. Paul P. Mampilly.—For how many is there accommodation at a time ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—For fifteen to twenty.

Inadequacy of Capital for Co-operative Societies.

64. **Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.**—With reference to Question 70, dated 1st August 1933 regarding the inadequacy of Capital for Co-operative Societies, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for their inability contained in their statement "Government are aware of the fact, but regret that nothing can be done in the matter" ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—In the initial stages of the movement small sums of money were advanced by the Government to some Co-operative Societies. By experience, this direct lending was found harmful and the system was therefore stopped. Grant of Government loan does not make the Societies self-reliant.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Is the position of the Government that the lending by the Central Co-operative Societies alone will make the Co-operative Societies self-reliant.

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